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## A GREAT WAR AT HAND.

## RUSSIA ABOUT TO INVADE TURKEY.

FURTHER DIPLOMACY DEEMED NECESSARY—WAR DEEMED INEVITABLE AT PESTH—A GREAT RUSSIAN IRON-CLAD ORDERED TO THE MEDITERRANEAN.

Yesterday the signs of approaching war between the Ottoman Empire and Russia were such as to leave little hope for peace. In London negotiations are deemed practically at an end. At Belgrade, Minister Ristich declares that hostilities will soon be resumed, and that Russia will come to the aid of Serbia. It is also stated at the Serbian capital that Russia has issued a circular note announcing that she is about to invade Bulgaria and Armenia. Austria is disposed to keep in accord with Russia and Germany. Italy is understood to be acting in concert with Russia. In Great Britain public opinion is divided. The European stock exchanges are greatly agitated.

## THE ADVENT OF WAR.

TWO GREAT RUSSIAN ARMIES ASSEMBLED—AUSTRIA DISPOSED TO ACT IN ACCORD WITH RUSSIA AND GERMANY.

PARIS, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1876. The *Standard* correspondent of the *Bien Public* telegraphs that he has had an interview with M. Ristich, the Serbian Prime Minister, in which the latter stated that a resumption of hostilities, in which Russia will participate, is certain.

LONDON, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1876. In an editorial article *The Times* says to-day: "The hopes we have so anxiously cherished must, we fear, at length be abandoned, and we must recognize the fact that negotiations are practically at an end, and that the two belligerents, now face to face in European Turkey, must be left to the consequences of their acts. Another 24 hours has brought no relief to the tension under which we were laboring, and events are evidently moving too fast on the Danube to be arrested by the slow progress of even telegraphic diplomacy."

A special dispatch to *The Daily News* from Pesth says: "Intelligence received here from Vienna states that England considers all diplomatic action at Constantinople at an end. This statement has produced a very gloomy feeling here, and war is considered unavoidable."

All Russians in Paris under the age of 40 have been ordered to return home.

The new Russian iron-clad *Peter the Great* is to leave Cronstadt immediately for the Mediterranean.

TWO RUSSIAN ARMIES READY FOR WAR. The correspondent of *The Standard* at Belgrade telegraphs to that paper as follows: "I have just received information that Russia has issued a circular note, announcing that in the interests of humanity she feels bound to march troops into Bulgaria and Armenia. I cannot vouch for the truth of this, but it is not improbable. There are 82,000 men at the Camp of Bender and 64,000 around Tiflis. [Bender is 45 miles north-west of Odessa, the principal Russian port on the Black Sea. Tiflis is in Asiatic Russia, contiguous to the Turkish frontier.]"

THE IMPERIAL POWERS IN ACCORD. A dispatch to *Reuter's Telegram Company* from Vienna to-day confirms from official sources the statement that Austria's Eastern policy will conform to that of Russia and Germany.

THE RELATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN POWERS. This announcement means the reestablishment of the imperial alliance which was shaken last Spring by England's rejection of the Berlin memorandum and the dispatch of a fleet to Besika Bay. The *Norddeutsche Zeitung's* reply to the article in *The London Times* of Oct. 16, in which the former journal says *The Times* ignores the existence of an alliance of the three imperial Powers, indicated Germany's adhesion. Unconfirmed rumor, it is said, which is rendered probable by Italy's action of a secret treaty between Russia and Italy would account for Austria's sudden return to Russian views. It will be remembered that the Crown Prince and Princess of Italy visited Russia early last Summer, and met with a distinguished reception. More recently the Italian liberal journals have been claiming an extension of territory in the direction of Tyrol in case Austria acquired any Turkish provinces. The Italian Government has disclaimed responsibility for this discussion, but it nevertheless has considerable effect on public feeling at Vienna. A programme agreed upon and executed by the three emperors would set aside these pretensions, and equally guarantee Austria against the danger on the side of Germany which independent action on her part would involve. Thus the imperial alliance leaves only England and France to be accounted with, supposing the truth of the reported Russo-Italian understanding.

THE ATTITUDE OF FRANCE. There is no recent evidence to show what would be the attitude of France, but up to the failure of the Berlin memorandum she gave ready adhesion to the imperial programme, and is not likely now to offer it any spontaneous opposition. If, therefore, the Russian preparations for a movement against Turkey are, as *Reuter's* Vienna dispatches indicate, in accordance with the views of the three emperors acting in concert, there can be little doubt they have determined to undertake the pacification of the Turkish provinces, probably on the basis of the Berlin memorandum, extending its provisions to Bulgaria. The question of the peace of Europe will in that case depend upon England, Turkish resistance without her aid being manifestly impossible for any considerable time.

PUBLIC OPINION IN ENGLAND. The recent agitation against the Government has entirely ceased, and a strong feeling against Russia has sprung up since her proposal to Austria for joint occupation, but if occupation is enforced under the sanction of the other Powers, without threatening Constantinople, public sentiment would not support the Government in opposing it with force, as the cooperation of Austria and Germany would be regarded as a guarantee against Russian pretensions.

As this view of the case—that is, an occupying the Vienna dispatches as true—the panic here is unwarranted; for, unless Turkey plays a desperate game, Russian intervention will lead to peace, with guarantees for the protection of the Porte's Christian subjects in Europe. It is not improbable that the Porte, when confronted with the prospect of intervention by united Europe, will concede the Russian demands without fighting.

RUSSIA THREATENED. *The Daily Telegraph* (pro-Turkish), in a leading article, says:

"England, much as she loves and desires peace, must wait from end to end of the world rather than permit the Russian flag to be hoisted at Constantinople. Lord Derby justly said that for British interests the Eastern question centered in Constantinople, and we hold it clear to all sensible and resolute Englishmen that at the first overt invasion of Turkish territory the British fleet, with the assent of the Sultan, would most assuredly cast anchor in the Golden Horn. Those to whom such a prospect might appear like help for the Turks may take comfort for it would be simply an act vital to British security, and accomplished in the name of and for the protection of British rights. If it were not done, Russia would immediately take the place of the Sultan, and the commerce along all our Oriental lines would lie at the mercy of a future Black Sea squadron."

THE EUROPEAN STOCK EXCHANGES. PANIC IN LONDON—FOREIGN STOCKS FORCED ON THE MARKET—GENERAL COMMOTION MANIFESTED.

LONDON, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1876. This afternoon's *Globe*, in its financial article, says a complete panic prevails on the Stock Exchange. The news of Russia's apparent determination to make open war upon Turkey has confirmed the fears which for several days have depressed the market, and culminated to-day in an indiscriminate pressure of sales of all descriptions of stock, not only by speculators stimulating panic fears, but by bona

fide holders of securities, especially foreigners. There was at the opening a further serious decline in quotations, and it was difficult to obtain prices at which bargains could be effected, the fluctuations being so great and frequent. The changes include a reduction of 5 in Hungarian, 14 in Turkish, 2 in Egyptian, 3 in Italian, and less, but a considerable decline, in all stocks.

INCIDENTS OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS. At noon to-day the Stock Exchange was greatly excited, and it was almost impossible to get accurate quotations. Russian securities declined 7, making a fall of nearly 20 within a week. War between Russia and Turkey is considered as already begun, and it is generally believed that other Powers will become involved. A commercial and financial crisis in Russia, and a consequent heavy fall in Russian exchange, adds to the confusion. The funded loan—the only American stock much dealt in—felt the influence of the prevailing depression, and was quoted at 105 1/4 to 100. During the afternoon stocks rallied slightly, but at the official close (3 o'clock) were again flat. The markets continued to decline to the last moment, and the final quotations at 5 o'clock are about the lowest of the day.

The report has been affirmed and denied that Romania will place part of her army at the service of Russia.

RAILROADS IN READINESS FOR WAR. VIENNA, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1876. It is stated that a convention has been concluded by Russia with the Roumanian railway companies, by which the latter engage to make preparations for transporting altogether 250,000 troops at the rate of at least 25,000 daily.

PARIS, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1876—Evening. The Bourse has been much agitated throughout, and all stocks closed at the lowest.

VIENNA, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1876—Evening. An important fall in Government stocks, and a sharp rise in exchange and the bullion market, have characterized to-day's Bourse.

BERLIN, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1876—Evening. On the Bourse to-day, Russian securities fell 6, Hungarian 3, and Austrian about 2 1/2. All other international stocks likewise suffered considerably.

PARIS, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1876. All the Paris evening papers declare that if the peace of Europe is disturbed, France will rigorously observe a policy of abstention.

LONDON, Thursday, Oct. 19, 1876. GERMANY AND RUSSIA IN ACCORD. The Paris correspondent of *The Times* reports that the symptoms of accord between Russia and Germany become more evident, and unfortunate Austria, placed between her formidable neighbors, must ultimately obey them. The only thing which keeps Russia back is that Austria's neutrality is not enough for her. She wants Austria's cooperation. France and England are the only Powers that sincerely desire peace, and the Russian programme, which will now be put forward, is one which Turkey will rather fall by the sword than accept. England and France should have an understanding, and force their pacific views on Turkey.

Late on Tuesday evening summonses were issued for a cabinet council to be held to-day (Thursday), and several Ministers arrived in town last night.

ENGLAND PREPARING FOR WAR. It is rumored that the Government contemplates calling an autumnal session of Parliament in consequence of the grave aspect of the Eastern question. It is also said that the Government have applied to Lloyd's to have ships ready to transport troops.

The *Advertiser* says it is reported that Lord Napier of Magdala has been ordered to hold himself in readiness to take command of troops which may be sent to Egypt.

The *Standard* prints an imposing table descriptive of the iron vessels of the Russian navy. It shows that they are 28 in number, and carry from two to 20 guns each.

*The Times*, in a leader, repeats the current rumors, and adds:

It is stated that orders have been given by the War Office to the Commander-in-Chief to hold three army corps in readiness for immediate dispatch to the Mediterranean; also, that plans for the defense of Constantinople prepared by the Royal Engineers have been forwarded to the admiral commanding the British fleet in Bosnia Bay.

The *Standard's* dispatch from Belgrade says: There is some talk of a proposal for an armistice until Dec. 31. It matters little what proposal is made. It is the opinion of well-informed people that Russia is bent on carrying on war until she gains a clear road to Constantinople. Only one condition Europe will make her peace. It is tedious to repeat this every day; but it cannot be too strongly asserted on Europe that preparations are making in Serbia, utterly inconsistent with any pacific professions which the St. Petersburg Cabinet may put forth. If Russia meant peace the preparations would be instantly.

*The Times* says: It is not to be denied that great dangers might arise. We must be prepared to defend all points threatened; but the mere danger of Turkey will not precipitate such measures. Neither Parliament nor the country would ever hear of going to war in behalf of Turkey. She had her opportunity and has thrown them away. It would be criminal folly to expend the smallest amount of English blood or treasure in her support.

*The Times's* telegram from Belgrade says Russians state that a European war will not begin until early Spring, when, if necessary, Russia will be prepared to do something in the direction of India.

The Berlin correspondent of *The Times* telegraphs that Turkey seemed favorable to an armistice of six weeks, provided Russia does not insist on a dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire. If Russia does, Turkey will let her do her worst.

PHASES OF THE EASTERN QUESTION. PEACE STILL DISTANT—THE SERVICEMEN'S MASTERS OF THE SITUATION—MR. LOWE'S STRICTURES ON THE GOVERNMENT—THE DEMAND FOR A WINTER SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] LONDON, Sept. 20.—The prospects of peace can scarcely be said to have improved since I last wrote, though the Czar has written to the Emperor of Austria an "autograph letter" of peaceful assurances, and stating that there is no fear of his being led away by the Slavonic agitation, as his desire is to cooperate with the other Powers in the interests of peace. The Russian exodus to Serbia has not ceased, military operations have recommenced, and independence and not the mere status quo as an object to be attained. The Serbian Government still apparently professes to be anxious for a prolonged armistice, but the conditions already formulated, but Tchernayeff and the army are completely masters of the situation. The correspondents at Belgrade tell us that the only chance of peace lies in the immediate acceptance of Prince Milan's conditions by the Porte. Even in that case it now appears doubtful whether Gen. Tchernayeff will not continue his crusade. It is more probable that the hopeful signs must come from Russia. If the St. Petersburg Government will only risk a little popularity and resolutely suppress the Russian and the drafts of the officers of their own army into the Serbian, the complications will be removed, and Prince Milan may be able to conclude peace on almost any terms short of actual independence. The outlook, however, is certainly far from reassuring. A train of powder seems to run in every direction, and it only wants igniting to cause a general explosion all round.

Some of the bitterness which has been infused into the discussion on the Government's Eastern policy now appears to have reached the incidental question of a Winter session of Parliament. Mr. Lowe writes to *The Times* to-day a letter which is an excellent example of Mr. Lowe's best and bitterest style, a letter which of course *The Times* reproduces for her having written. Mr. Lowe doubtless tells the facts when he says that Lord Beaconsfield has denounced "those public men whose opinions coincide with the country and are against the Government as worse than the authors of the Bulgarian atrocities;" and again when he says that the "answer of the Government is that they are to do as

they like and the people are to tamely submit." He accuses the Government of "chicanery" in depriving the nation of those rights of self-government which it has wrung from powerful kings, but which it cannot wrest from ministers, the creatures of its own creation. *The Times* has not yet joined the demand for a Winter session, but as the days go by the necessity for it becomes more apparent. Mr. Lowe's remarks that "Parliament had no opportunity before it separated of forming a distinct opinion of the policy to be pursued toward Turkey, that the Government is pursuing a policy which, were Parliament sitting, it would be prevented from pursuing," are no doubt true. The question of whether Great Britain is to pursue her traditional policy toward Turkey is one which has never been discussed, and it seems that the Government is to settle it in the affirmative without Parliament having any voice in the matter. There has been an all but unanimous demand for this course at the public meetings in the country; yet the Government would, it seems, rather face the country than the rage of its supporters at being brought from their country seats and rural pursuits, some from their business, to the uncongenial atmosphere of Westminster.

The Government is strangely perverse. The Premier, usually so quick at catching a national impulse and turning it to his own ends, has neglected the present one in a most unaccountable manner. It is quite true that the question can so ill afford to be discussed in an excited mood or heated temperature. The issues involved are doubtless too great, if not for the future of Great Britain, at all events for the present peace of Europe to be decided by heated public meetings, whose indignation is positively at boiling point against the Turks, in consequence of the appalling occurrences in Bulgaria; yet surely this would afford a reason for the Cabinet taking the country into its confidence. The slight ray of hope which was discovered in Lord Derby's speeches, when he spoke favorably of the extension of the principle of autonomy, disappears in an instant before Mr. Gladstone's crushing indictment. It is, perhaps, not too much to say that there is no man at the present moment in whom the country has greater confidence in regard to this question than Mr. Gladstone. He speaks with all the authority of responsibility, and of one who knows the many side issues and "cross purposes," as he himself expressed it, of this great question. His demand for a speedy assembling of Parliament can hardly be resisted, unless the Government, before it is yet too late, will yield somewhat to the popular views on the question. Even then I can hardly see how the Ministry can escape an autumnal session. Questions are now awaiting settlement which may alter the Eastern policy of all the nations of Europe. These questions have been but barely discussed in Parliament. No Government can afford—and least of all under the present circumstances—Lord Beaconsfield to act on such a matter without the authority and support of Parliament.

After many delays and apparently much discussion, the Porte has communicated to the Powers the terms on which it is willing to negotiate for peace, but as they are outrageously extravagant, they will doubtless be forthwith rejected. In the present state of public feeling in regard to Turkey it is not for a moment likely that the Porte will be allowed to reoccupy the Serbian forts which it held before 1857. It has come to be more than ever an established principle in dealing with the Constantinople Government that they shall not be allowed to occupy an inch of territory which they have once been compelled to forego. Russia again is hardly likely to allow the dismantling of the Serbian fortresses, and with the state of feeling existing among the Servians the condition that Prince Milan should pay homage to the Sultan will not find favor with them.

TURKISH MISREPRESENTATIONS. SHEWED ATTEMPTS TO MISLEAD EUROPE—THE STORY OF THE BULGARIAN COMMISSIONERS—RECENT CHRISTIANS IN THE TURKISH SERVICE—BLAQUE BEY'S HISTORY.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] CONSTANTINOPLE, Sept. 26.—Upon the supposition that madmen are not to look upon every one with whom they come in contact as insane—but upon no other ground—it is possible to account for the measures the Sublime Porte has taken to give the world what may be called the Turkish side of the Bulgarian horrors. There has, however, been no method about this madness. When first vague rumors were bruited about that extraordinary scenes had been enacted in the Christian States of Turkey, the Government at once denied the rumors in toto. We were told that these reports owed their existence to some evil-disposed persons who had greatly exaggerated a slight outbreak which had occurred among the Bulgarians, a small band of whom had attempted to rebel by the representations of foreign agents who had attempted to sow discord among them. The Bulgarians, however, had quickly acknowledged their error, and had returned gratefully to the paternal protection of the Porte, which was ever ready to listen to the appeals, or to improve the condition of its subjects, regarding them as its children, Mussulman and Christian alike. This "highfalutin" language might have satisfied many people and had been accepted as true had not newspaper enterprise and the very praiseworthy action of the American Government in sending Mr. Schuyler, its Consul-General here, to Bulgaria, thrown more light upon the subject. As this light began to dawn upon the Turkish Government early last month it was considered advisable to somewhat modify the original denial—or, in fact, apparently to forget that it had ever been given—and this was done through the agency of an official Commissioner, who drew up a lengthy report refuting the story of the massacres and of outrages upon innocent people, but slightly changing the order of the defense by stating that the acts which were committed had been called forth by way of reprisals for similar and even more atrocious outrages committed by the Christians. Details, such as localities, dates, and figures were carefully suppressed, and the American Commissioner was right—as has since been proved—when he spoke of this report as "a tissue of falsehoods from beginning to end." I have already given you extracts of this document side by side with statements made by the inhabitants of the villages, and since that time undoubted evidence has been furnished that these statements were correct in almost the minutest details. In spite of this, when submitting Edin's report to the English Government, the Turkish Ambassador stated that this "conscientious" report expresses in the most impartial manner the latest events of which Bulgaria has been the scene. And yet in the face of this Mr. Schuyler has had the audacity to declare this report as a tissue of falsehoods, and what is worse in the eyes of the Porte, supported by Mr. Baring and others, has proved that he was right! This report of Edin's report did not meet exactly with the reception the Government had hoped for. It was published at length in all the important journals of Europe, but many of these newspapers refused to place credit in it. A commission was then organized under the presidency of Salim Effendi, which reported its proceedings at Philippopolis, where it tried many prisoners and sentenced a large number to death. The whole tenor of this report went to prove that the Bulgarians deserved their fate, as they were insurgents. The Porte then sent Blaque Bey and Yovanetis Effendi to draw up a report, thinking that by sending the former—a Christian—they could more easily persuade people to accept their account of affairs as the true one. Could the "unbelievers" any longer refuse to give credit to the report of the Government when that report was made, not by Mohammedans alone, but by Mohammedans and Christians together? It is

easy to imagine that the official to whom this idea a commission thus constituted occurred chuckled with delight as he thought what an amount of dust could by this means be thrown in the eyes of the skeptical by one of their own religion. As usual, however, the Government by this action simply gave evidence of its shortsightedness. The Christian—save the mark!—officials of the Porte are in truth more Turkophile than the Moslems themselves. They would never hold the high offices which some of them do not but they were useful tools for the Government in cases of this kind. Nominally Christians, but in reality apostates, they have only been promoted to the positions they hold by not by successive acts of oppression committed upon their coreligionists, at least by shutting their eyes when these acts have been committed by the Turks, and thus indirectly countenancing and approving of them. Americans are probably familiar with the name of Blaque Bey, who married the daughter of the celebrated surgeon, Dr. Valentine Mott of New-York, and was subsequently Turkish Ambassador at Washington. He was recalled from the American capital on account of having been personally interested in contracts for the purchase of arms, out of which he made a large fortune. Although for a time, after his return from America, Blaque Bey was under a cloud, yet the rapidity with which Grand Viziers are changed, and the frequency with which councils of State are altered and remodeled in this country resulted in the past being forgotten, and he has been reinstated in office as head of the press bureau.

WHEAT EXCITEMENT IN CHICAGO. GRAIN RISES UPON THE RECEIPT OF WAR NEWS—LARGE SALES.

CHICAGO, Oct. 18.—There was intense excitement on Chicago for a portion of the day and anxiety to learn the war news from the East, which increased steadily until the close. November wheat advanced from \$1 1 1/4, at which point it closed last night, to \$1 17, with slight reaction; but from that point fell rapidly to \$1 14 1/4, and fluctuated violently until the close, when it was strong. The business transactions were the heaviest which have occurred for a considerable time; perhaps since the Franco-Prussian war. It is stated by good judges that the transactions for November option alone, aggregated 20,000,000 bushels, cash. Wheat is at present in strong hands, and is virtually cornered, though prices maintain their proportion. The developments of the coming week are anxiously awaited. Remy & Ingalls, one of the oldest houses in the grain business, failed to-day. They have always done a heavy Canadian business. Their liabilities are unknown.

EFFECT UPON BUSINESS IN THIS CITY. GREAT EXCITEMENT AT THE STOCK AND GOLD EXCHANGES—FOUR FAIRLIES CAUSED—THE EFFECT AT THE PRODUCE EXCHANGE.

Wall Street was thrown into intense excitement yesterday morning upon receipt of the warlike news from Europe and the effect of the troubles between Russia and Turkey on the European money markets. The first effect of the reports upon the market here was felt at the Gold Exchange, where the scene has been without a parallel for years. Gold closed on Wednesday at 160 1/2, and opened yesterday morning at 110 1/2. In one minute the price had gone to 111, and within five minutes it had advanced to 112 1/2. The market was made it 11 1/4, with little fluctuation during the afternoon, but the volume of business transacted during the day was very large.

On the Stock Exchange there was an advance of 1/4 to 1 1/2 per cent in United States bonds, while stocks of all kinds took an upward movement, the argument being used that war meant better business in this country, both for the railroads and for general trade. A special feature was made of Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, and Delaware and Hudson Canal stocks, the former advancing from 73 1/2 before the first call to 80 1/2, and finally closing at 78. The latter stock opened at 69 1/2, and rapidly advanced to 82 1/2, a gain of 13 per cent. During the last hour the price fell off rapidly, and closed at 81 1/4, with little fluctuation during the afternoon. This was still 6 1/2 per cent above the closing figures of Wednesday.

During the day, "under the rule" continued mild near the close of business. The large advance in the stock of the two companies mentioned was not attributed so much to the war news from Europe as to an effort on the part of certain persons to bull the market for these stocks.

As one of the results of the day's operations, there were four failures reported at the Stock and Gold Exchanges. Hope, Nichols & Co., of No. 17 William-st., gave notice during the day that they were unable to meet their engagements. One of the firms which quietly stated to a TRIBUNE reporter that their liabilities were not very large, and that they hoped to pay off their debts, was that of the late J. M. Brown, he said, of coal stocks, and the advance was so great that they were unable to bear the loss. It was stated that they were active operators at the time of the recent decline in these stocks, and that they had been forced to sell at a loss. The other two failures, it was stated, were also for small amounts, that of J. M. Brown being caused by the sudden rise in gold.

At the Produce Exchange considerable excitement, which lasted through the entire day and affected some of the prices to an unusual degree. Yesterday the fluctuations in the price of grain varied from one to five cents above the prices of last Saturday. This was caused by the members as a very unusual advance of being disposed of. It is stated that a fair advance of any day's prices for the past six months. One of the members stated that the usual number of bushels sold daily was about 100,000 to 200,000, but yesterday it was manifested in the rest of the market. Corn was a half cent better than former prices, with a dull market. The wheat market was very quiet, and the wheat from Chicago received at the Exchange indicated a speculative market. The market for pork was very quiet, and the pork from Chicago received at the Exchange indicated a speculative market. The market for lard was very quiet, and the lard from Chicago received at the Exchange indicated a speculative market.

THE AUSTRALASIAN MAIL CONTRACT. SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 18.—The Pacific Mail steamer City of Sydney, from Sydney via Auckland and Honolulu, bringing the British mails, arrived here to-day. A committee of the New Zealand House of Representatives, to whom was referred the question pending between the Pacific Mail Company and the colonies of New South Wales and New Zealand, regarding the contract for postal service between these countries and San Francisco, reported on the 22d inst., and the following paragraphs refer to the existing contract:

The committee find it expedient that the existing contract be modified as follows: First, that the service be direct from San Francisco to Sydney, calling at Honolulu and at the Bay of Islands, or Auckland; second, that the postal service be performed by the company by fast mail boats to be approved by the Government; and third, that the share of the New Zealand contribution be reduced by \$10,000.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES. PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 18.—The cable admissions reported up to 1 o'clock to-day were 106,990.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Oct. 18.—The total number of interments to-day was 7; of yellow fever, 3.

DETROIT, Mich., Oct. 18.—The International Division of the Lumbermen's Association of the United States and Canada held their thirteenth annual session in this city to-day.

PROVIDENCE, Oct. 18.—The Division of Rhode Island, under the command of Gen. Walker, was reviewed to-day. About 3,500 men were in line, and made a fine appearance.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 18.—The statue of Witherspoon, which is the completion, has remained at the works of Wood & Co., will be unveiled in Fairmount Park on Friday with appropriate ceremonies.

## FAIR PLAY IN CAROLINA.

DEMOCRACY OPPOSED TO IT. GEN. GRANT'S ORDER DENOUNCED BY OPPOSITION LEADERS—A PLOT TO ROB SOUTH CAROLINA OF HER WHOLE ELECTORAL VOTE—GEN. SHERMAN COLLECTING HIS TROOPS.

A meeting of Democrats has been held at the Ebbitt House, Washington, to agree upon a counter-movement to Gen. Grant's effort to secure a fair election in South Carolina. It is proposed to ask Wade Hampton to retire from the canvass and get Congress to throw out South Carolina's electoral vote. The President's proclamation is bitterly criticized by Democratic leaders at headquarters in this city. The movement of troops to South Carolina has already begun from the cities of the Atlantic States where there are garrisons.

THE CONFEDERATE SCHEME. REJECTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S VOTE PLANNED—THE PLOT DEFEATED BY A LUCKY BLUNDER OF CONGRESS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—Influential Democrats here have already begun to plan, in view of the possibility that the results of the Presidential election are not what they wish them to be. Their plans are apparently based upon the belief that the XXIII Joint Rule is still in force, and that under it the Democratic House can, by the arbitrary will of a partisan majority, reject the electoral vote of any State, and thus defeat the will of the people. An informal meeting of leading Democrats is said to have been held at the Ebbitt House late last evening to discuss what policy is best to adopt to meet the movement of Gen. Grant upon South Carolina. Judge Jeremiah Black was the principal speaker. A plan was broached and approved which will be perfected to-day. This is to telegraph to Wade Hampton and his followers to withdraw promptly from the canvass and leave the Republican ticket without any opposition; then the Democratic House will not allow the vote of South Carolina to be counted in February upon the ground of its illegality.

If the XXIII Joint Rule were in force such a course would have been possible, and a partisan majority in the House could have thrown out the vote of any State without assigning any reason and without appeal. Indeed it would have been possible arbitrarily to reject electoral votes enough to prevent any choice by the Electoral College, and consequently to force the election of President by the Democratic House of Representatives. That the Democrats have supposed this rule to be in force is evident from the proceedings of the House itself. The record shows that at the beginning of the last ten days of the session the Democratic leaders (as would have been the custom had the rule been in force) moved to suspend the XXIII and XXIV Joint Rules for the remainder of the session. This motion was carried, and the suspension resolution was sent to the Senate for concurrence. When it arrived there Senator Edmunds remarked that the resolution of the House could not be acted on for the reason that there were no joint rules of the two houses to suspend. Further examination of the record showed that Mr. Edmunds was right, and that the House in adopting the rules of the last Congress had neglected to include the XXIII joint rule. Any plan of conspiracy to the will of the House, under this rule, must therefore be abandoned.

The only existing provision for counting the vote of the Electoral College is the Twelfth Amendment to the Constitution, which makes the President of the Senate the custodian of the certificates of the votes, and requires him to preside at the joint convention of Senate and House to open the certificates and to declare the result, to which may be added the law requiring that in February, it is for Senator Ferry of Michigan, therefore, to declare what is the voice of the electors of the whole country. It is possible thus that a blunder of the Confederate House may have disarmed revolution.

CONCENTRATION OF TROOPS. ONLY 5,000 IN THE DEPARTMENT AVAILABLE FOR ALL PURPOSES. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—Sensational statements as to the concentration of 10,000 troops from the Department of the Atlantic at Columbia, S. C., are made in nearly all the Democratic papers. They are not tenable. A staff officer of Gen. Sherman says to-night that such stories are mischievously false, as there are less than 5,000 troops in the entire Department of the Atlantic which are available for any purpose whatever. The soldiers at the remount of the Army of the Tennessee are very much excited at the Southern situation. There is a great deal of belittling talk among them. Some of the foremost men say with tremendous earnestness that if they should ever take the field again they would follow Sumner's plan and destroy State lines.

ORDERING FORWARD THE SPARE COMPANIES. [GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.] FORT MONROE, Va., Oct. 18.—Gen. Barry received telegraphic instructions from Washington this morning to send four companies of artillery from this post at once to Columbia, S. C., to report to Major-General Rucker, commanding the Department. Company 1, 4th Artillery, Capt. R. Loder; Company G, 1st Artillery, Capt. Samuel S. Elder; Company A, 3d Artillery, Capt. L. Lorraine; and Company C, 5th Artillery, Capt. Wallace F. Randolph, were designated, and leave for that place to-morrow morning. This leaves only one company here for duty.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Oct. 18.—Battery B, 1st United States Artillery, and 10 men from Battery K, now at Fort Adams, have received orders to proceed forthwith to Columbia, S. C.

CAINHOY UNDER GUARD. CHARLESTON, Oct. 18.—All has been quiet to-day at Cainho. A small force of armed citizens from Charleston remain in the village, as the residents fear that if this guard was withdrawn their homes would be fired. News was received to-night that a company of United States troops are on the way from Columbia to Cainho, and causes great satisfaction. The President's proclamation causes no excitement and little comment here.

INCORPORATION OF NUMEROUS RIFLE COMPANIES. WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—It appears from an examination of the statutes of South Carolina that since 1870 the Legislature of that State has incorporated a large number of rifle companies, called by that name, and also military companies called by various names, making no discrimination as to race. There are 490 voting precincts in that State.

REPUBLICAN MASS MEETING IN BROOKLYN. Ex-Gov. Dix, Gen. William H. Brown of Washington, and Gen. George W. Sharpe addressed a large Republican mass meeting last evening at the Morgan Wigwam, at Chatham and Putnam-aves., Brooklyn. The President, E. B. Kennedy, opened the meeting by announcing a few of the nominations made yesterday in the Kings County Convention. Gen. Dix spoke at some length upon the currency question, his remarks being similar to those lately delivered by him at Cooper Union. Gen. Brown spoke of Gov. Hayes's war record. Gen. Sharpe began his address by stating that he wished to make a few practical remarks upon the currency question. He said that Gen. Carey was accustomed to ask any one in his audience who did not want more money to stand up, and no one did so. He then declared that the object of the Greenback party to give every one more money, and therefore every one who did not rise would vote his question, and the value of money was the question, and not the quantity. He wanted more money, but he did not want the fortunes of every one to be proportionately increased at the same time. When the greenbacks were first issued, prices steadily rose in proportion to the amount in circulation, and, although a

man had more money, he was no better off than formerly. There was plenty of money in the Southern States during the war, but the money was so worthless that a barrel of ladies' shoes at \$700 a pair. One of the most important questions to be decided by the November election was whether the Government would issue more money, as it had pledged itself to do, or issue more promises to pay.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS. SPANISH TOPICS. LONDON, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1876. A special dispatch to *The Times*, from Barcelona, says: "The Spanish pilgrimages to Rome have been converted into Carlist manifestations. The pilgrims, upon embarking, cheered for Don Carlos."

*The Daily News* has a special from Rome announcing that the committee which superintended the reception of the Spanish pilgrims by the Pope on Monday, and who were privileged to enter the Vatican, refused to admit the Spanish Ambassador to Italy and his attaches, although they were fully provided with tickets.

A letter dispatch from Madrid says: "The Civil Government of Biscay has been superseded. Fresh arrests have been made, causing great uneasiness. Gen. Quesada is expected here."

THE SILVER QUESTION. LONDON, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1876. *The Daily Telegraph's* financial article says: "Germany proposes to submit to the next Parliament the property of largely increasing her silver coinage, on the ground that the present amount in circulation is insufficient."

India Council bills were allotted to-day at about a falling per rupee advance on last week's rate. Silver is quoted to-day at 92 1/2 pence ounce.

THE WRECK OF THE DARDENONG. SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 18.—Melbourne advices of the 23d inst. report all hopes of any of the passengers or crew left on the steamer Dardening, which foundered off Jervis Bay on the 11th ult., abandoned. Parodies of the wreck have come ashore. The bark Albert took off 22 passengers and 12 of the crew.

The steamer *Albatross*, which was wrecked, was maintained throughout; that all the women and children were first cared for; that only one woman remained on the steamer, and that of her only one child, which she would not leave her invalid husband and child.

STORMY WEATHER AT HAVANA. HAVANA, Oct. 18.—Very heavy squalls and rains have been in progress here since yesterday, and the wind is increasing. The thermometer is falling rapidly, and it is probable a hurricane will visit this section to-night. The vessels in the harbor are taking precautions.

THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT. BERLIN, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1876. An Imperial decree is published to-day summoning Parliament to meet Oct. 30.

FOREIGN NOTES. HAVANA, Oct. 18.—A decree has been issued by the Captain-General prohibiting the introduction into the island of Cuba of Porto Rico tobacco.

HALIFAX, N. S., Oct. 18.—The British fleet here has been ordered to remain until further orders instead of proceeding to the West Indies for the Winter, as usual.

HALIFAX, N. S., Oct. 18.—The schooner *Lilly*, from Margarettville for Boston, was captured in the gale of Tuesday and drifted ashore at St. Mary's Bay. Three of her crew were drowned.

M'PHERSON'S STATUE UNVEILED. MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF THE ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE—CEREMONIES AT THE STATUE—ADDRESS BY GEN. LOG